

Application No. 09/517,364  
Amendment dated March 25, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of December 24, 2002

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application after this amendment. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 have been amended and claims 9-20 have been added. In the following sections of the Amendment the rejections set forth by the Examiner in the December 24, 2002, Office Action are addressed. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and detailed arguments are set forth below. Reconsideration of the claims is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The specification has been amended to add text to the BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION and the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. The additional text does not add new matter, but merely restates subject matter in the original application so as to put the application in proper format. It is submitted that these amendments should not be objectionable.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,587,800 to Miyazaki (the "Miyazaki reference") or under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over the Miyazaki reference (stating that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art and that one skilled in the art would have been motivated to modify the Miyazaki reference). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant would like to point out that the Miyazaki reference is not generating uniqueness identifiers. The Examiner states that column 4, lines 18-23 ("If NO in step S2, i.e., it is determined that the character data is not stored, outline data corresponding to the character code is read out of the font memory 102 in step S3, and the character pattern is generated based on the read outline data in step S4.") of the Miyazaki reference discloses generating a uniqueness identifier. The Examiner seems to be equating the "character pattern" with the claimed uniqueness identifier. Although the "character pattern" is generated, it is not a uniqueness identifier at all, but merely the pattern (generated from the outline font) that is to be printed. This is clarified at column 1, lines 14-16: "outline fonts have been widely employed as a font in order to generate

character pattern corresponding to character code data." The Miyazaki character pattern would be most equivalent to the claimed "print job," "print page," or "print image."

Whereas the Miyazaki reference specifically discloses generating the "character pattern" in the printer, applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 5, and 7 to specifically recite that the uniqueness identifiers are generated in a host computer. This is significant for two reasons. First, it is faster to generate the uniqueness identifier in the host computer, which generally has more powerful and faster processors than peripheral devices. Second, a less expensive processor can be used in the peripheral device if it doesn't have to perform operations such as generating a uniqueness identifier.

It should be noted that the claimed invention has significant advantages over that disclosed in the Miyazaki reference. For example, by generating uniqueness identifiers in a host computer, the entire print portion does not need to be transferred from the host computer to the printer if the uniqueness identifier is found in the list of uniqueness identifiers. The Miyazaki reference discloses that "[d]ata from the host computer 100 received in parallel with the overlaying image formation and printing is stored in the page buffer memory 104 via the reception buffer 108. The processing of the flowcharts of FIGS. 4 to 6 start when printing data for one page is received and stored in the page buffer memory 104." As a page contains hundreds of characters, and the Miyazaki data is acted upon (including stored) on a character by character basis, the Miyazaki device would never be able to take advantage of the ability not to transfer data if it is already stored in memory.

Applicant reserves the right to present arguments that it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to complete a full print job in portions. The fact that the claimed invention is within the capabilities of one of ordinary skill in the art is not sufficient by itself to establish *prima facie* obviousness. As applicant believes that claimed limitations are not taught or suggested by the Miyazaki reference, applicant has chosen not to present those arguments at this time.

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New claims 9-20 are dependent directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 2, or 7. Therefore, these claims are patentable for the same reasons as were discussed for their respective independent claims, and further in light of the further limitations contained in the dependent claims.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and remarks, and early notice of allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

A Petition for Extension of Time for one month is enclosed herewith.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 50-2115 for any additional fees which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,



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